

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

September 3, 2012

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Important Dates

August 27-September 7	MAP Testing
September 15	Harvest Social
September 17-19	Free Dental Clinic
September 19	Tall Windy Sailing Field Trip
September 20	Curriculum Night

Dear Families,

Welcome to September! Our first full week of switching last week went quite well. We have begun our various units in each subject and you can find details below.

Holmes will host a free dental clinic open to all students September 17-19. Completed forms are due Monday, September 10. This dental exam fulfills the requirement for the exam needed for kindergarten and 6th grade.

We are hoping cooler weather will make our classrooms more comfortable. When the weather is hot and humid, we are reminded that fifth graders need to pay special attention to hygiene. Please encourage your child to shower daily and use antiperspirant/deodorant.

You will have an opportunity to meet the 5th grade team at Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 20. Please plan to attend. We look forward to meeting you!

Art - 5th graders are back at it in the Art room. We have been reviewing the Elements of Art (line, shape, form, space, value, texture, & color). We are creating a mixed media drawing project featuring these Elements as a warm-up for many exciting other projects coming this year.

Music - 5th Graders have had a great start to the year and I am looking forward to a year of wonderful music making! Our first lessons with recorder will be on **Wednesday, September 5th**. If your child cannot find their recorder they may bring in 6 dollars cash or check to district 97 to music to purchase a new one. They also may purchase a recorder online from the Holmes store. Please do not buy any recorder other than the ones being sold through school. Financial assistance is available, if needed (email Mrs. Karia at akaria@op97.org). If your child does not have their recorder by next week, it will effect their grade.

Spanish -

Library - In the library this week, fifth graders will learn about "IPICK," an acronym to help them choose a good fit book. Find out more on the Holmes Library page on our school website, <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> . The library also has a blog (<http://holmesmediacenter.blogspot.com/>) that is periodically updated with fun literacy events in the school and Oak Park communities, and other "happenings" in the library. Email the teacher librarian, Ms.

Maneck, at mmaneck@op97.org with questions.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

The Reading Timelines students created last week were incredibly well done. It was clear they put a great deal of time and effort into them. It was interesting to hear what students learned about themselves as readers from reflecting upon books of their past. This week, we will continue to work on becoming familiar with the Reader's Workshop format. Students will learn strategies to help them generate ideas for writing, as well as strategies to help them edit and revise their writing independently. We will discuss how reading and writing are so closely interconnected, and why it is important to do both regularly. Our goal for the week will be on increasing our independent reading and writing stamina. Looking forward to next week, we will work on strategies for expanding our vocabulary and effective ways to read to someone else. Spelling homework will begin the week of September 17th.

Language Arts

During our first unit of study in writing students will focus on investigating what it means to have strong personal character. This week we are working on the writing trait of organization. Through the use of picture books, we will guide students to be able to write an 8-sentence paragraph that includes specific examples and quotes from the text to answer a given question.

Math

This week, we continue with our review of number theory. We will continue working with arrays and see how they help us model even and odd numbers, prime and composite numbers, and square numbers. We will have a short quiz on Friday. We will be using our calculators later in the week as we work on unsquaring numbers. Every 5th grade student needs a calculator. We recommend the TI-15 Explorer calculator as it has fraction functions that we will use later in the year. Calculators are available from the school at a cost of \$16, payable in cash, or check made out to District 97. You may also order calculators online from the District 97 Web Store.

Science

In science this week, we will build on our knowledge of fossil fuels with a study of primary sources. Students will analyze a photograph of "breaker boys" from the turn of the century and a 1902 interview with a breaker boy. We will read from two websites that have different points of view of the coal industry

-- the EPA and the National Mining Association. This will help us learn skills we'll use for our research project. Finally, we'll conduct experiments on testing the pH of water and growing plants with acid rain.

For future experiments, we will need large, clean pizza delivery boxes and 2-liter bottles.

Please send them our way.

Social Studies

Big Question: How did the first Americans shape the way we live today?

This week, students will discover how people first came to America. The students will also work together to research different American Indian groups throughout America to learn about how they lived. On Friday, the students will use the information they collected throughout the week to answer the Big Question.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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